

PHARYNGEAL WALL TREATMENT

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A patient's pharyngeal wall is treated by inserting an expander member into the
5 airway and positioning an active portion of the expander member in opposition to
portions of the pharyngeal wall to be treated. The expander member is activated to urge
the wall portions outwardly to an outwardly displaced position. The expander member
is then deactivated while leaving the wall portions in the outwardly placed position and
the expander member is removed from said airway. A further aspect of the treatment
10 includes stabilization of at least a portion of the pharyngeal wall after compression of
portions of the wall.